Briefcase containing bomb like device in a DTC bus

408. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sophisticated bomb-like device encased in a briefcase was found in a Delhi Transport Corporation bus near Kauria Bridge in Delhi on September 1, 1986; and

(b) whether any person has been apprehended in connection therewith; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Punjab Government pressing the release of detenus

409. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government had been pressing during the past four months for release of a number of detenus apprehended in connection with terrorism;

(b) if so, the number and details of such detenus sought to be released;

(c) what are the charges against each of them and on what grounds Punjab Government has sought the release; and

(d) what is the Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Ecological Development

410. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a two-day conference on the Economics of Ecological Development was held on October 7-8, 1986 in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what specific issues were discussed at the conference and what was the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Terrorists killed in encounter with BSF

411. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 10 terrorists while attempting intrusion across Indo-Pakistan border from Pakistan, were killed in an encounter with Border Security Force in September, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether the Punjab Government has taken up the matter with the Centre, if so, in what terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Terrorism in Punjab

412. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made during the past eight months since Shri Rebeiro took over as Director General of Punjab Police to liquidate, eliminate and isolate the terrorists and to curb and prevent their activities; and

(b) what further measures Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Government of Punjab, 1181 extremists have been arrested by the Police during the period from 1st March, 1986 to 20th October, 1986. 64 terrorists were killed during the same period.

Several steps have been taken to curb terrorist activities in the State. These include intensification of police patrolling, strengthening of police arrangements in areas prone to extremist violence, raids on the hideouts of terrorists, their harbourers and associates, and deployment of paramilitary forces.

Threat of attack on Cantonment Police Station at Pune

413. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a top CID official at Pune had received an anonymous telephone call on or about September 14, threatening an attack on the cantonment Police Station in case the alleged self-confessed assassins of former Army Chief General Vaidya were not released; and

(b) if so, what steps were taken to face the threat and to apprehend the caller(s)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra a threatening telephone call was received by an officer of State CID. Necessary security arrangements were made and the concerned authorities were alerted. Constant vigil is being maintained in this regard.

Review of VIPs security system

414. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent incidents of attempts to kill the Prime Minister and the Punjab DGP, Government have reviewed the VIPs security system in order to revamp the same; and

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY AF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A comprehensive review of the security arrangements for the President, Prime Minister and other dignitaries has been carried out and steps have been taken to strengthen the arrangements.

(b) It would, however, not be in the interest of security to disclose the specific steps taken.